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- ***URABA* EXTENDS ITS RANGE**

Another population of the gum leaf skeletoniser (*Uraba lugens*) has been found on eucalypts in New Zealand, this time in the Auckland region. The insect was detected in the Waikaraka Cemetery at Onehunga on 9 August 2001 by Les Renney (Vigil Forest Health Advisory Services) during a routine risk site survey for MAF Forest Biosecurity. Egg masses, larvae or evidence of damage, were present on four *Eucalyptus cinerea* trees about 15 m tall growing within about 30 m of each other. The identity of the insects was confirmed by the Forest Health Reference Laboratory (Forest Research). *Uraba lugens* is another Australian species that feeds on eucalypts, and was first found in New Zealand at the Mount Maunganui golf course in June 1997 (*FHNews* **65:**2). Since its discovery it has been the subject of an eradication campaign, and although it has persisted at Mount Maunganui in very low numbers, indications are that the operation is succeeding.

It would be idle to speculate on the origin of the Onehunga population. The four infested trees and others nearby that are known hosts of *Uraba lugens* (species of *Eucalyptus* and *Lophostemon*) were all sprayed with insecticide. Subsequent surveys conducted within a radius of 1.5 km have revealed no further evidence of the insect. However, surveys are continuing at Onehunga, so watch this space.

(*John Bain, Forest Health* and *Colin Barr, Vigil*)

- **ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE IN EUROPE**

In April we featured an item on the Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) which has recently been causing serious concern in the Chicago region and New York City in the United States (*FHNews* **106:**1). This destructive beetle is now known to have reached Europe. According to Brenda Warner, a staff reporter for the Chicago *Sun-Times* (10 August), about 15 to 20 Norway maple trees infested with this insect were identified during a ground survey on July 30 in the city of Braunau in northern Austria. However, withering and dying of trees were first observed in this locality last year, and the beetle is therefore likely to have been present for some time. Twigs and bark on attacked trees show signs of adult feeding, and exit holes and egg-laying sites are evident. Swarms of beetles have also been observed.

The affected trees are situated near a building supply yard, and it is speculated that the insect may have been introduced in infested packaged wood two or three years ago. The discovery is of concern not only to Austria, but to the whole of Europe. Surveys are being conducted of all trees and stands in and around Braunau, and infested trees will be felled and chipped to destroy larvae within.

For those conversant in German, further information and pictures are available on the web site:

http://www.stadtbaum.at/cpag/109.html

(*Editor*)

- **FEEDBACK**

The following appeared recently in *Growing Today* (September 2001:48): "… if you want to stay informed about new or spreading tree pests or diseases, Forest Research's website is a real cracker-" That's the knowledgeable opinion of The Bugman, Ruud Kleinpaste. Check it out for yourself on:

< http://www.foresthealth.co.nz>

*Newsletter of the **Forest Health and Biosecurity Project**, and the **Forest Health Reference Laboratory** (incorporating the Forest Research Mycological Herbarium (NZFRI-M), the Forest Research Culture Collection (NZFS), and the National Forest Insect Collection (FRNZ). Edited by Ian Hood, New Zealand Forest Research Institute Ltd, Private Bag 3020, Rotorua. <ian.hood@forestresearch.co.nz> , Web site < http://www.foresthealth.co.nz>*

- **DUTCH ELM DISEASE 2000-2001**

Last season's eradication campaign in Auckland consisted of three disease detection surveys and a survey to determine the incidence of the causal fungus (*Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*) in the inner growth rings of elm trees. As a result of the disease detection surveys infected trees were found at seven locations, five in the Howick-Pakuranga area and one each at Papatoetoe and Papakura. These trees displayed symptoms typical of the disease and the old wood of all but one yielded cultures of *O. novo-ulmi*. This is the first season since 1995/96 in which an infection has been identified only in the current wood.

The survey to determine the incidence of *O. novo-ulmi* in old wood was started in Auckland on 15 January and finished on 9 May. Almost 2,500 elm trees throughout greater Auckland were visited and four branches were cut from each tree. The branches were then sectioned and each cut surface was examined for staining (staining is a diagnostic feature of infection by *O. novo-ulmi*). All samples showing stain were sent to Forest Research to test for the causal fungus. Isolations of *O. novo-ulmi* were attempted from stain in 707 individual growth rings from 274 trees, and the fungus was found in three trees growing in Waikumete Cemetery, West Auckland.

In addition, a pheromone-trapping programme was undertaken in high-risk areas, funded by Auckland City Council. A total of 887 beetles were caught in 51 traps, but none carried *O. novo-ulmi*. Additional traps were placed on the seven sites where infected trees were detected and these caught 1,691 beetles, of which 12 were contaminated by the fungus. The infective beetles were trapped at Papatoetoe, Howick, Pakuranga, and Papakura.

Despite the setbacks of isolating the fungus from the current wood of one tree, and of trapping infective beetles, providing effort is not reduced we are hopeful that Dutch elm disease can still be eradicated from New Zealand.

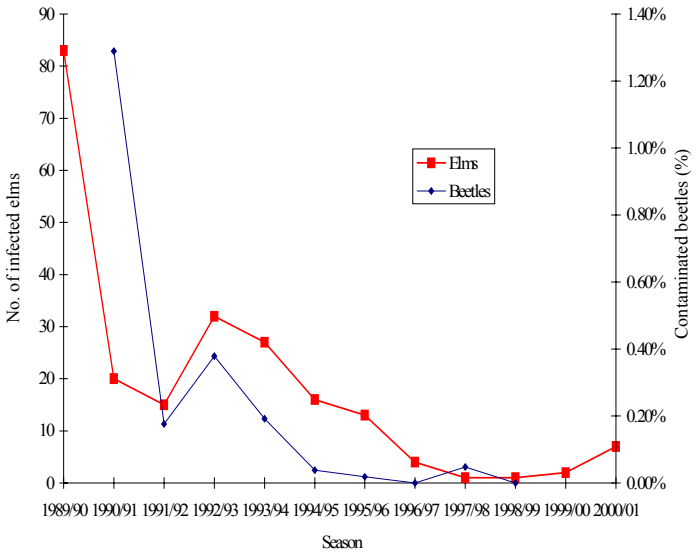
(*Lindsay Bulman and Margaret Dick, Forest Research*)

- **NEW RECORDS**

The following records reported by the Forest Health Reference Laboratory (Forest Research) result from a general surveillance programme comprising public enquires, and small block and risk site surveys, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Members of the public are encouraged to submit to this laboratory any samples of pests or pest damage on trees or shrubs that they suspect might be new to New Zealand. This is a free service funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the detection of new pest introductions.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Acrocercops alysidota*; **Bioregion:** Coromandel; **Host:** *Acacia decurrens*; **Coll:** L Renney, 13/6/2001; **Ident:** TM Withers, 21/6/2001; **Comments:** This insect has been recorded on a number of *Acacia* spp., but this is our first record of it mining inside the petioles and stems of *Acacia decurrens*.

Numbers elms or beetles infected (1989/90-2000/01) or contaminated (1990/91-98/99) by *Ophiostoma ulmi*



New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect: *Acrocercops laciniella*; **Bioregion:** Hawke's Bay; **Host:** *Eucalyptus* sp.; **Coll:** C Barr, 16/6/2001; **Ident:** TM Withers, 20/6/2001; **Comments:** Known from a variety of eucalypt species.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Acrocercops laciniella*; **Bioregion:** Auckland; **Host:** *Eucalyptus saligna*; **Coll:** L Renney, 23/6/2001; **Ident:** TM Withers, 26/6/2001; **Comments:** Not reported from *Eucalyptus saligna* before, although it has been recorded from the closely related *Eucalyptus botryoides*.

New record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Coryneum betulinum*; **Bioregion:** Wellington; **Host:** *Betula pendula*; **Coll:** BJ Rogan, 12/6/2001; **Ident:** K Dobbie, 20/6/2001; **Comments:** Despite being associated with dieback and fruiting on dead twig and small branch this fungus is not considered pathogenic.

New host record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Cryptosporiopsis* aff. *eucalypti*; **Bioregion:** Wellington; **Host:** *Dysoxylum spectabile*; **Coll:** BJ Rogan, 14/6/2001; **Ident:** MA Dick, 19/6/2001; **Comments:** Discrete leafspots formed on leaves. The affected tissue breaks out leaving a shot hole. The condition appears to of no significance on the sampled material but is reported to be widespread on host plants in the locality. Spore dimensions and habit of the stromata are in accord with those described for *C. eucalypti*. No hosts other than species of *Eucalyptus* have been described from New Zealand or overseas. *C. eucalypti* is recorded from most bioregions in the North Island including Wellington (FH Database). Some uncertainty remains over the specific epithet because of this host specificity.

New record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Winterella betulae*; **Bioregion:** Wellington; **Host:** *Betula pendula*; **Coll:** BJ Rogan, 12/6/2001; **Ident:** K Dobbie, 20/6/2001; **Comments:** This fungus is often found on small, dead and usually still attached twigs of *Betula* species. It is probably endophytic rather than parasitic despite it being associated with dieback and fruiting on dead twigs and small branches. (*Geoff Ridley, Forest Research*)